



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 02 December 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

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Daily Highlights

- Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents executed federal search warrants at two facilities owned by a Southern California military subcontractor and arrested 17 unauthorized workers, a number of whom are believed to have been re-hired despite warnings to the company not to re-hire due to their illegal immigration status. (See item [3](#))
- Congress Daily reports Arizona border patrol officials are negotiating with the Federal Aviation Administration about where and when unmanned Predator B drones can be deployed along the border with Mexico. (See item [15](#))
- The New York State Agriculture Commissioner and State Director of Homeland Security have announced new regulations that increase the security controls for ammonium nitrate — a common chemical compound used in commercial fertilizer, but also can be used to make bombs — in New York. (See item [16](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 01, Associated Press* — **Man goes to prison for causing power failures.** A man who called himself "Dr. Chaos" online was sentenced Wednesday, November 30, to seven

years in federal prison for hacking into computers and causing power failures in northeastern Wisconsin. Joseph D. Konopka, 29, already is serving a 13-year federal prison sentence for pleading guilty in 2002 to chemical weapons possession for storing cyanide near a Chicago subway. The former computer systems administrator pleaded guilty in August to 11 felonies, including conspiracy, arson, creating counterfeit software and interfering with computers in Wisconsin. Prosecutors said Konopka and an "anarchist group of boys" called Realm of Chaos were responsible for 28 power outages affecting 30,000 customers and 20 other service interruptions in 1999. Damage was estimated at \$800,000.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2005/LAW/12/01/dr.chaos.ap/index.html>

2. *December 01, Associated Press* — **Some South Dakotans could be without power until mid-December.** South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds says residents in some areas hit hardest by this week's severe winter storms could be without power until early, or mid-December. Rounds says at least 8,000 power poles and 10,000 miles of transmission line were downed, and it's going to take that long to physically put up all of lines. Crews restored power to another 3,000 customers, but some 26,000 electric customers remain in the dark. Rounds says the damage to South Dakota's small towns and rural communities is "absolutely catastrophic."

Source: <http://www.keloland.com/News/NewsDetail5440.cfm?Id=0.44328>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

3. *November 30, Immigration and Customs Enforcement* — **Illegal workers employed by military subcontractor arrested.** Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents on Wednesday, November 30, executed federal search warrants at two facilities owned by a Southern California military subcontractor that has come under scrutiny twice in the last six years for hiring unauthorized workers. During the enforcement actions targeting facilities operated by the Golden State Fencing Company in Oceanside and Riverside, ICE agents arrested 17 unauthorized workers, a number of whom are believed to have been re-hired despite warnings to the company not to re-hire due to their illegal immigration status. ICE agents also seized boxes of documents and other information from the company facilities during the searches. "ICE is using its unique immigration enforcement authorities to safeguard worksites and installations that are potentially vulnerable to security threats or sabotage," said Frank Marwood, acting special agent-in-charge for ICE investigations in San Diego. Golden State has provided contract workers in San Diego to perform services at the U.S. Navy base on North Island. Previous ICE audits showed that some of Golden State's employees had security IDs enabling them to enter North Island to construct fences on the base.

Source: <http://www.ice.gov/graphics/news/newsreleases/articles/051130sandiego.htm>

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Banking and Finance Sector

4. *November 30, The News Journal (DE)* — **Two university computers' security breached.**

Two recent security breaches of computers at the University of Delaware may have exposed the names and Social Security numbers stored in databases, university officials said. A School of Education computer was attacked in late August by a hacker whose intent appears to have been to establish an illegal movie sharing system. The computer contained a database that included Social Security numbers of 772 students registered in online education courses. A Department of English computer also was hacked in August in an apparent attempt to log on to and control one server, and then gain control over other campus servers. In both of the unrelated cases, the objective of the intruder seemed to be unrelated to the fact the databases contained personal information, officials said. To date, there has been no indication that any identity theft has occurred as a result of these incidents. The University of Delaware is located in Newark, DE.

Source: <http://www.delawareonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051130/NEWS/511300353/1006>

5. *November 30, Department of the Treasury* — **Abu Sayyaf senior leaders designated.** The Department of the Treasury on Wednesday, November 30, designated three individuals for their senior leadership roles in the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), a notoriously violent separatist group operating in the Southern Philippines. The individuals have supported and/or committed terrorist attacks on behalf of the ASG. The individuals named, Jainal Antel Sali, Jr., Radulan Sahiron, and Isnilon Totoni Hapilon, were designated pursuant to Executive Order 13224. This action freezes any assets the designees may have located under U.S. jurisdiction and prohibits transactions between U.S. persons and the designees. The U.S. and Australia are submitting these three individuals to the United Nations 1267 Committee, which will consider adding them to its Consolidated List based on ASG's association with al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden.

Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/js3027.htm>

6. *November 30, IDG News* — **Security glitch in government portal makes fraud easier for phishers.** The Department of Labor said Wednesday, November 30, it is working to fix a programming glitch in a U.S. government Web portal that makes it easier for phishers to trick people into disclosing sensitive information. The flaw was first exploited by phishers who earlier this week began sending out bogus e-mail messages asking for personal information, including social security and credit card numbers. The bug lets these phishers redirect URLs that use the GovBenefits.gov domain to fraudulent Websites that are unconnected with the U.S. government. This redirecting flaw was first exploited just days ago by phishers masquerading as the Internal Revenue Service, said Graham Cluley, a senior technology consultant at Sophos PLC, a UK security firm that has been researching the matter. "The people behind GovBenefits.gov have implemented their software in such a way that leaves the Website vulnerable to a phishing attack," he said. The technique is particularly effective because the link that users click on is, in fact, a genuine GovBenefits.gov link, he added. The GovBenefits.gov Website is used by 16 federal agencies, and is designed to help users determine their eligibility for government-funded benefit and assistance programs.

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/holes/story/0,10801,106645,00.html>

Transportation and Border Security Sector

7. *December 01, Associated Press* — **Garlic forces passengers from airport.** Dozens of passengers were evacuated into the rainy night at Philadelphia International Airport by a bomb scare. A bag being checked for an American Airlines flight set off an alarm at Terminal A–East Wednesday night, November 30. The baggage in question turned out to contain garlic paste. Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-12-01-garlic-bomb-s care x.htm>
8. *December 01, Associated Press* — **California airport to offer express screening.** The San Jose International Airport in Silicon Valley will soon become the nation's second airfield to offer a high tech express lane for security checks. The so-called "Registered Traveler" program offers airline passengers a prepaid, pre-approved security pass — complete with fingerprint and eye scans. Enrolled passengers who pay a fee and get a background check and can bypass the airport's general security checkpoint, heading instead for a more exclusive security lane. The program debuted at the Orlando International Airport in Florida, where more than 10,000 members pay a \$79.95 annual fee. San Jose passengers will likely be charged a similar fee, said Rich Dressler, a spokesperson for the San Jose airport. Other airports across the nation are expected to adopt the program also, creating what the Transportation Security Administration hopes will be a fully interoperable network by June. Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-12-01-san-jose-scre ening x.htm>
9. *December 01, USA TODAY* — **U.S., Canada seek way around border passport plan.** The Departments of Homeland Security and State are trying to come up with a cheap, convenient way for U.S. citizens and Canadians to prove their identities while crossing the border. Faced with growing opposition to a proposal requiring people to show passports or other similar IDs, the Bush administration will propose new forms of identification next spring, Homeland Security spokesperson Jarrod Agen said. It's unclear what kind of an ID might be used, but Agen said the government is looking for ways to make the new card easy to obtain and carry. "We've heard and certainly recognize the concerns that folks don't want this delaying them or creating problems along the border," Agen said. It would require U.S. citizens to show passports or similar IDs instead of just driver's licenses or birth certificates when re-entering the country from Canada, Mexico, Panama, Bermuda and the Caribbean. And it would require Canadians, who can now enter with driver's licenses, to show a passport to enter the U.S. Agen noted that the 9/11 Commission recommended a secure ID for the borders and Congress ordered the Bush administration to develop one. Driver's licenses don't prove nationality, he said, and there are hundreds of variations, which make it hard for agents to recognize fakes. Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-11-30-canada-passpo rts x.htm>
10. *December 01, Department of Transportation* — **Department of Transportation provides \$40 million for Katrina-damaged highways and bridges.** Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta on Wednesday, November 30, provided an additional \$40 million to Louisiana and Mississippi as part of the federal government's commitment to help Gulf Coast states rebuild roads and bridges damaged by Hurricane Katrina. The Federal Highway Administration will immediately advance each state \$20 million in emergency relief funds that

may be used to repair or rebuild portions of I-10, U.S. 90, and other federally supported highways and bridges, according to Mineta. This announcement represents the second installment of federal funds for highway and bridge repairs since the hurricane struck. The Bush Administration has requested that Congress provide an additional \$2.3 billion for repairing and rebuilding Katrina-damaged highways and bridges.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/DOT17505.htm>

11. *December 01, Mobile Register (AL)* — **Port deal could be big for all of Alabama.** A new deal to build a container facility at the state docks proves again the importance of state and local cooperation. Two of the world's largest maritime shipping corporations announced this week that they will partner with the Alabama State Port Authority to build and operate a modern dock facility that could position Mobile, AL, as one of the nation's leading ports. Mobile Container Terminal LLC, a joint venture between APM Terminals of North America Inc. and Terminal Link S.A., will invest up to \$150 million to help build a \$300 million container facility on Choctaw Point. APM Terminals is a subsidiary of A.P. Moller-Maersk Group, a Denmark company and the largest container fleet operator in the world. It will have an 80 percent stake in the new Mobile-based company. The remaining 20 percent will be owned by Terminal Link, a division of CMA CGM S.A., which is a French company that is the third largest fleet operator in the world. With the new facility, Mobile will be one of the top 10 ports in the nation, up from its current ranking at 14th. The facility will increase the port's container handling capacity from 75,000 a year to more than 800,000 annually.

Source: <http://www.al.com/opinion/mobileregister/index.ssf?/base/opinion/1133432446291290.xml&coll=3>

12. *December 01, Department of Transportation* — **Statement from Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph H. Boardman on Inspector General's report on highway rail grade crossing safety oversight.** The comprehensive and effective highway-rail grade crossing safety oversight program of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) will be further strengthened as a result of recommendations made by the Department of Transportation Inspector General. They will help FRA determine the accuracy of grade crossing accident information reported by the railroads and may contribute to understanding of the causes of grade crossing collisions. The report recognizes many of the aggressive actions taken by FRA in the past two years to improve grade crossing safety inspection and enforcement capabilities. In particular, FRA has implemented new procedures to ensure railroads make all required reports when a grade crossing accident occurs; has more clearly defined to FRA regional offices when to conduct a grade crossing accident investigation; and has instituted an enhanced data analysis process to better direct FRA grade crossing safety enforcement activities.

November 28 IG report: <http://www.oig.dot.gov/item.jsp?id=1720>

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fra3005.htm>

13. *December 01, Associated Press* — **New I-90 port of entry opens near Montana line.** A new Wyoming port of entry with a scale that can weigh trucks while they travel at highway speeds is opening near the Montana line on Friday, December 2. Five Wyoming Highway Patrol troopers and a lieutenant will be based in an office at the new Dietz Port of Entry on Interstate 90 between Sheridan and Ranchester, WY. "The bottom line is the old port didn't meet the criteria anymore," Wyoming Department of Transportation spokesperson Rhonda Holwell said.

Source: http://www.helenair.com/articles/2005/12/01/montana/01mt2005_1201120.txt

14. *December 01, Reuters* — **Ambitious Los Angeles airport upgrade halted.** An ambitious \$11 billion construction plan to expand and modernize Los Angeles International Airport — the world's fifth busiest — was effectively halted Thursday, December 1, when officials agreed to limit growth and go back to the drawing board. The Los Angeles City Council approved key parts of the overhaul a year ago. It envisaged expanding capacity nearly 30 percent to 78 million passengers a year, realigning a runway and building a new transit hub and an elevated "people mover." Local residents, however, concerned over noise and extra traffic filed lawsuits challenging the expansion plan, which was also questioned by security experts and the Los Angeles mayor, Antonio Villaraigosa. Officials have also agreed to study ways of spreading air traffic to other Los Angeles-area airports. Only the rebuilding of the southern runway to improve safety will go ahead as originally envisaged. The outdated international departures and arrival terminal will be overhauled and explosive detection machines installed. A new master plan could be released by January 2007.

Source: <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/10283447/>

15. *November 30, Congress Daily* — **FAA restrictions bar wider use of drones to patrol border.** President Bush wants unmanned drones used along the U.S.–Mexican border as part of his broader immigration initiative unveiled this week, but border patrol officials are still negotiating with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) about where and when it can deploy the systems. After more than two years of negotiations, the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Directorate recently finalized a deal with the FAA to fly one drone in the Tucson, AZ–area. The CBP wants to deploy a second drone in the Tucson area, but, "We have to talk and ask for permission, but FAA is very strict," said a CBP spokesperson. "We're looking at what we can do to get exemptions" from FAA regulations or maximize the requirements set by FAA for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The drones, called "Predator B," have the capacity to fly 30 consecutive hours without refueling at 230 miles per hour and over remote land border areas. The UAVs are equipped with electro-optic sensors, radar and infrared cameras and can immediately and automatically transfer images to ground controls.

Source: http://govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=32897&dcn=todays_news

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

16. *December 01, New York Ag Connection* — **New York strengthens regulation of ammonium nitrate.** New York State Agriculture Commissioner Nathan Rudgers and State Director of Homeland Security James McMahon Wednesday, November 30, announced new regulations that increase the security controls for ammonium nitrate in New York. Ammonium nitrate is a common chemical compound used in commercial fertilizer, but also can be used to make

bombs. Commissioner Rudgers said, "Ammonium nitrate has been an effective nutrient source for agricultural crops for many years...As useful as this chemical can be, it can be even more devastating when used for harm instead of good." Retailers of ammonium nitrate and associated products are now required to be registered with the State Department of Agriculture and Markets and must maintain records for two years, to include the date of sale and quantity of ammonium nitrate or ammonium nitrate products purchased, along with a valid state or federal picture identification card number. Registered retail facilities must provide reasonable protection against vandalism, theft, and unauthorized access. The new requirements are effective immediately. Ammonium nitrate has been linked to terrorist plots, including the 1993 World Trade Center and 1995 Oklahoma City bombings. No federal regulations exist governing the sale of ammonium nitrate. Oklahoma, Nevada, and South Carolina have similar regulations. Regulations: <http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us>
Source: <http://www.newyorkagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=432&yr=2005>

17. *December 01, The Valdosta Daily Times (GA)* — **Officials train in agroterrorism prevention.** Representatives from various Lowndes County, GA, agencies and businesses attended a workshop Wednesday, November 30, on agrosecurity awareness, and the ways to prevent agroterrorism. Agroterrorism is the intentional use of any weapon — chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive — against the nation's agricultural or food industries with intent to destroy resources and cause serious economic harm. Mickey Fourakers, coordinator with the Lowndes County Extension, said the training is in connection with the Homeland Security Department and is designed for first responders like firefighters, deputies, emergency personnel, food processors, and farmers. Representatives from South Georgia Medical Center, Valdosta Police and Fire Departments, Lowndes County Fire Department, and Moody Air Force Base were in attendance. Don Hamilton, agrosecurity coordinator, and Maria Luke, Georgia Department of Agriculture Assistant State Veterinarian gave presentations on topics including agriculture, food pathogens, and emergency management. Luke said the workshop aims to pull together all the first responders in emergency situations. Next year's workshop will feature hands-on exercises in response training. Nick Lacey, director for Lowndes County 911 emergency and management services, said agricultural emergencies are taken seriously. "Local (residents) have a very important role to play in helping respond to agricultural emergencies," he said.
Source: <http://www.valdostadailytimes.com/content/1/18175/Officials+train+in+agroterrorism+prevention.htm>

18. *November 30, The Horse.com* — **Vesicular stomatitis premises dwindling.** According to the latest update from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service on Sunday, November 20, 35 premises in five states remain under vesicular stomatitis (VS) quarantine. Of those, 27 premises are on their 21-day countdowns for quarantine removal. VS primarily affects cattle, horses, and swine. Infected animals get blisters on their lips, tongues, and coronary bands that enlarge and break, leaving raw tissue that is so painful the animals generally refuse to eat or drink, and they become lame. Severe weight loss usually follows. The disease is thought to be spread by insects. Officials keep VS-affected farms under quarantine until 21 days after the final lesion is healed on a farm's last affected animal. Wyoming has logged the most VS premises this year — 137. As of November 20, only 20 of those premises remained under quarantine. Colorado had nine quarantined premises, with six of those on quarantine removal countdowns. The quarantined premises in Idaho (one), Montana

(three), and Utah (two), were all on their quarantine removal countdowns. Nine states have experienced VS this year beginning in late April. Overall, 440 VS premises have been reported. Report: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/ncahs/nsu/surveillance/vsv/vsvSR2005_112005.htm
Source: <http://www.thehorse.com/viewarticle.aspx?ID=6359>

19. *November 29, The Fort Morgan Times (CO)* — **Chronic wasting disease found in deer in Yuma County, Colorado.** A mule deer buck taken by a hunter in southern Yuma County, CO, has tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD), the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) has announced, in the first case of CWD to be found in the area. The deer was taken near the headwaters of Black Wolf Creek. "Based upon what we know about deer movements out of river bottoms, it isn't surprising to find a positive deer in this location," said Mike Trujillo, district wildlife manager for the DOW in Yuma. "Previous research has shown some deer move back and forth from the plains to the South Platte River bottom, where about four percent of mule deer have CWD." The DOW will notify area hunters that a deer taken in the area has tested positive, and that the DOW is interested in collecting additional samples during the late plains rifle season, the whitetail-only season in game management unit 101, and the remaining archery season. The DOW has collected just over 100 samples from GMUs 101 and 102 since 2003, and all previously collected samples had tested negative.
Source: <http://www.fortmorgantimes.com/Stories/0,1413,164%257E8318%257E3148167,00.html>

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Food Sector

20. *December 01, Xinhua* — **Hundreds poisoned by salmonella from bean sprouts in Canada.** Hundreds of people have been confirmed with salmonella poisoning from contaminated bean sprouts in Canada's Ontario province and health officials are warning the public to avoid eating them. Dr. Sheela Basrur, Ontario's medical officer of health said that as of Wednesday, November 20, that 336 cases of salmonella poisoning had been identified. However, that number probably represents "the tip of the iceberg...We may have a far greater degree of human illness in Ontario than we can even measure at this point," said Basrur. So far, 27 of the 36 regional public health units in Ontario have reported cases of illness attributed to bean sprouts. Last week, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) warned the public not to consume mung bean sprout products distributed by Toronto Sun Wah Trading Inc., also known as Hollend Enterprises Inc. The advisory is now extended to all bean sprouts until the source of the contamination is found. Beyond Ontario there are no reports of any related cases of salmonella poisoning.
Source: http://english.people.com.cn/200512/01/eng20051201_224811.html

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Water Sector

21.

December 01, Associated Press — **Ladybugs short-circuit prison's water system.** Ladybugs short-circuited part of the Carbon County, PA, prison's water system, causing a water shortage that alerted county prison board members to a slow water pump at the prison. Prison officials discovered November 18 that the water pump wasn't refilling a 100,000-gallon holding tank that supplies water for bathing, cooking, washing, and firefighting. Workers found that ladybugs had entered the well pumping house, crawled inside equipment and short-circuited the tank's low-level indicator. Water pressure in the system dropped, leaving the prison dry, Warden William Juracka said. Officials bought bottled water for the inmates to drink and called county emergency management directors and volunteer fire companies to deliver more water to the prison. Five volunteer fire companies pumped more than 60,000 gallons of potable water into the system.

Source: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=15670248&BRD=2212&PAG=461&dept_id=465812&rfi=6

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Public Health Sector

22. *December 01, Xinhua (China)* — **Thailand to become bird flu free zone.** The Thai government will soon declare Thailand as a bird flu free zone with no more poultry in the kingdom infected with H5N1 avian flu virus. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives reported the latest bird flu situation to the cabinet at its weekly meeting on Tuesday, November 29, saying that there is now only one area in the kingdom which is under a close surveillance on an avian flu outbreak. The only area under the state close observation is Wat Chalo Sub-district in Bang Kruay District of Nonthaburi Province on the outskirts of Bangkok, Thai Government Spokesperson Surapong Suebwonglee said. "If there is no more H5N1 virus found among poultry flocks in the sole observation area after November 29, all parts of Thailand will be free from bird flu outbreaks and the country can be declared a bird flu free zone," Surapong said.

Source: <http://english.eastday.com/eastday/englishedition/node20665/node20669/node22813/node95960/node95962/userobject1ai1688935.html>

23. *December 01, Rocky Mountain News (CO)* — **Lab takes shape to fight bioterrorism, seek cures.** Construction has begun on a \$33 million laboratory to develop tools against bioterrorism and find cures for infectious diseases. Colorado State University officials broke ground on the Regional Biocontainment Laboratory on Wednesday, November 30, at the Foothills Research Campus, eight miles west of Fort Collins, CO. The new facility is scheduled to be completed by summer 2007. The biocontainment lab will connect with other facilities now under construction, resulting in more than 50,000 square feet in research space devoted to the study of infectious diseases. Microbiologist Barry Beaty said scientists on campus will test and produce new vaccines for the world market. The biocontainment lab was funded in part by a \$22 million grant awarded in 2003 by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Some of the viruses and pathogens that will be studied at the new lab include West Nile virus, dengue, and dengue hemorrhagic fever.

Source: http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/local/article/0,1299,D_RMN_15_4279475,00.html

24.

December 01, Agence France–Presse — **Bird flu reappears in Romania.** Three new outbreaks of bird flu have been detected in poultry in southeastern Romania, local government officials told Agence France Presse. The governor of the Braila region, Nicolae Motri, said dozens of chickens had been found dead of the disease at Bumbacari and Dudesu. He said he had ordered the slaughter of more than 8,000 birds in the two villages. Earlier his counterpart in the Tuclea region, Ioan Boieru, said a new case of the H5 strain of bird flu had been detected in a duck and a chicken at Periprava in the Danube Delta. "As from Thursday, December 1, we are going to start the slaughter of about 1,500 birds at Periprava," Boieru said. On Saturday, November 26, Health Minister Gheorghe Flutur announced the slaughter of 15,000 domestic birds in the eastern village of Scarlatesti following detection of the H5 virus in a turkey. The Scarlatesti case was the first instance of bird flu outside the Danube delta, where tens of thousands of birds were slaughtered after bird flu was discovered in eight places.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051201/hl_afp/healthfluomania_051201145323:ylt=AnoaRrRQIulj3JtCqLW_i0OJOrgF:ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCUI

25. *December 01, Nature* — **Fruit bats as reservoirs of Ebola virus.** The first recorded human outbreak of Ebola virus was in 1976, but the wild reservoir of this virus is still unknown. Researchers tested for Ebola in more than a thousand small vertebrates that were collected during Ebola outbreaks in humans and great apes between 2001 and 2003 in Gabon and the Republic of the Congo. Researchers found evidence of asymptomatic infection by Ebola virus in three species of fruit bat, indicating that these animals may be acting as a reservoir for the virus. In total, 1,030 animals were captured, including 679 bats, 222 birds, and 129 small terrestrial vertebrates, and were tested for evidence of infection by Ebola virus. Of the infected animals identified during these field collections, immunoglobulin G (IgG) specific for Ebola virus was detected in serum from three different bat species (four of 17 *Hypsignathus monstrosus*, eight of 117 *Epomops franqueti*, and four of 58 *Myonycteris torquata*). Two of the principal organs targeted by Ebola virus are the liver and spleen. Viral nucleotide sequences were detected in these organs in other bats from the same populations (four of 21, five of 117, and four of 141, respectively).

Ebola information: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/spb/mnpages/dispages/ebola.htm>

Source: <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v438/n7068/full/438575a.html>

26. *December 01, Associated Press* — **Bacterial illness may be spreading.** A deadly bacterial illness commonly seen in people on antibiotics appears to be growing more common — even in patients not taking such drugs, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) officials warned Thursday, December 1. The bacteria are *Clostridium difficile* (C–diff). C–diff is found in the colon and can cause diarrhea and a more serious intestinal condition known as colitis. C–diff has grown resistant to certain antibiotics that work against other colon bacteria. The result: When patients take those antibiotics, particularly clindamycin, competing bacteria die off and C–diff explodes. The CDC report focused on 33 cases reported since 2003. Twenty–three involved otherwise healthy people in the Philadelphia area who were not admitted to a hospital within three months of illness. Ten more were otherwise healthy pregnant women who had had brief hospital stays. Those reports came from Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, and New Hampshire. One of the 33 patients died — a 31–year–old Pennsylvania woman who was pregnant with twins when she first went to the emergency room with symptoms. Despite treatment with antibiotics, she lost the fetuses and then died. In eight of the

33 cases, patients said they had not taken any antibiotics within three months of the onset of symptoms.

Clostridium difficile information: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/gastro/ClostridiumDifficile.htm>

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/front/3496097.html>

27. *November 29, WMUR (NH)* — **Flu drill highlights holes in emergency plans.** New Hampshire health officials are asking for legislative changes to patch up problems exposed in an avian flu drill last month. During the drill, the mock outbreak struck towns that had no supplies of Tamiflu, a medication that reduces the chance of getting the illness or lessens its effects. When state health leaders phoned area pharmacies to secure extra doses, they found they had no legal authority to take the medication. Besides expanding the department's power in a crisis, John Stephen, commissioner of the state Department of Health and Human Services, said that he wants to clarify the chain of command. He said he intends to create a small group of state leaders — doctors, the attorney general, lawmakers — to make specific life-or-death decisions in crunch time. "For example, if there's a shortage of vaccine, we need to decide who gets it," Stephen said. The Health and Human Services Oversight Committee will take the commissioner's ideas and create a bill for the Legislature to consider when it returns to session in January.

Source: <http://www.thewmurchannel.com/health/5428752/detail.html>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

28. *December 01, GW Hatchet (Washington, DC)* — **GW receives \$4.7 million grant from the Department of Homeland Security.** George Washington University (GW) will spend the next two years training first responders in the event of a terrorist attack after receiving a \$4.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). GW was one of 267 institutions and organizations vying for a share of the \$30 million in the 2005 budget for DHS' Competitive Training Grant Program. GW will utilize the funding "to prepare emergency medical personnel to respond to mass casualty situations related to natural disasters and terrorism," said Jean Johnson, GW senior associate dean for health science programs. After undergoing a rigorous application process, which included a peer review evaluation from practitioners at the federal, state and local levels, the university was one of 15 groups selected in October to receive the grant. Marlene Phillips, DHS public affairs specialist in the Office of Grants and Training, said the funding is for training initiatives that further the agency's mission to prepare the country for terrorism. Other colleges that received grants include Florida State University, Michigan State University and the University of Maryland–Baltimore.

Source: <http://www.gwhatchet.com/media/paper332/news/2005/12/01/News/Gw.Receives.4.7.Million.Grant.From.Homeland.Security-111757>

29. *November 30, Des Moines Register (IA)* — System connects three states' responders.

Woodbury County, IA's, emergency services director has high hopes for a \$10 million emergency communications system deploying this week. The new system will, for the first time, electronically connect emergency and law enforcement services from three counties, one each in Woodbury County, IA, Dakota County, NE, and Union County, SD, said Gary Brown, Woodbury County's emergency management director. The system's most important feature, Brown and others said, is the unprecedented cross-communication it offers to different emergency agencies rushing to disaster scenes. The Woodbury County tri-state project is one of 17 nationwide paid for in 2002 by federal Homeland Security grants. The idea was to help communities rebuild radio systems so that different agencies could communicate with one another. The technology exists, but the costs to upgrade old equipment and buy new equipment to put everyone on the same system can be prohibitive, Brown said.

Source: <http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/2005/1130/NEWS05/511300350/1001>

30. *November 30, Associated Press* — Task force hears from North Texans on hurricane evacuation. Communications with emergency officials were difficult and reliable information was hard to come by while hundreds of thousands of hurricane evacuees poured into North Texas, local workers told a state task force Wednesday, November 30. The task force met with about 230 local officials in the fourth of six hearings around the state designed to improve Texas' evacuation procedures during disasters. "The lack of effective communication was a problem [during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita]," said Juan Ortiz, emergency management coordinator for Fort Worth-Tarrant County, TX. He said information like the number of buses arriving and the needs of evacuees were rarely accurate. The task force has met in Houston, Corpus Christi and South Padre Island, and will hold its final meetings Friday, December 2, in San Antonio and Tuesday, December 13, in Beaumont. Task force Chairman Jack Little said the task force has so far identified four areas that need attention: how to move people out of an area; making sure there's fuel available along evacuation routes; how to deal with evacuating people with special needs; and determining who has final authority to make certain evacuation-related decisions.

Source: <http://www.dfw.com/mld/startelegram/news/state/13294917.htm>

31. *November 30, WALB-TV (GA)* — Georgia first responders use new HazCat identification equipment to train for terrorist attacks. Albany, GA, firefighters are taking a five day training course on new equipment to identify hazardous substances. The new HazCat identification equipment is a computer that enables first responders to take samples and test chemical or biological agents. The computer will then help identify the substance in minutes, while sending the information simultaneously to supervisors. The HazCat Kit will be used with the Albany Fire Department Regional Response unit, which serves the 23 county Southwest Georgia region.

Source: <http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=4184786&nav=5kZQ>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

32. *December 01, Computer World* — **Gartner: Hurricanes prompt more companies to store data off-site.** The number of companies making copies of data to protect it has dramatically risen in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma this year, but most of those companies are keeping that duplicate data locally where it's still vulnerable to disasters, according to a survey released Wednesday, November 30, by Gartner Inc. The September survey of 104 North American IT managers showed that 45 percent of respondents back up or replicate data to another disk, up from just six percent who did so in 2004. But 70 percent of the respondents who make backups do so to a local device. Adam Couture, an analyst at Stamford, CT-based Gartner, said that if companies hope to truly protect their data, they have to electronically copy it to an off-site facility either owned by the company or a service provider. The Gartner survey also showed that IT managers are more comfortable considering managed storage services to copy data off-site. Over the past two years, Couture said, surveys have shown that between 30 percent and 40 percent of IT managers would never use a third-party service provider. But in the most recent survey, that number had plummeted to just six percent.
Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/hardwaretopics/storage/story/0,10801,106641,00.html>
33. *December 01, CNET* — **Net outage hits United Kingdom.** Internet service providers America Online, Virgin.net, Wanadoo and Zen Internet all confirmed that they had been hit by outages in the United Kingdom (UK) for several hours Wednesday, November 30. BT Group, the UK's telecommunications giant, said the glitches were due to a software problem linked to user authentication. Three servers were the cause of the problem, which affected customers randomly around the UK, according to BT. A BT representative said the outages resulted from increased congestion on the network, preventing fresh users from logging on, although those already connected via BT's broadband network experienced no service interruption. Although none of the ISPs could immediately provide precise information on how many end-users experienced problems, a Zen representative described the outages as "short term but significant," and a representative for Wanadoo said most ISPs had been touched by the problems at BT. AOL estimated that the number of its subscribers who experienced Internet connectivity problems could have reached 100,000. BT's representative said the company has launched an investigation into the problem.
Source: http://news.com.com/Net+outage+hits+Brits/2100-1037_3-5978374.html?tag=nefd.top
34. *December 01, InfoWorld* — **Intel foresees more capacity constraints in 2006.** Intel's manufacturing plants will still operate at nearly full capacity next year as new technologies are rolled out, but the tide could shift in 2007, the company's chief financial officer said Wednesday, November 30. Demand for PCs and servers has been stronger than originally expected this year and Intel's factories have been running almost flat-out the entire year, forcing the company to temporarily pull back from building low-margin products such as low-end desktop chipsets. As new fabs and manufacturing technologies come online in 2006, that crunch will ease slightly, said Andy Bryant, Intel's chief financial officer, speaking at Intel's main U.S. manufacturing facility in Hillsboro, OR. Intel is expanding capacity at a fab in Ireland and moving two U.S. factories to its 65-nanometer processing technology, which will free up capacity on older manufacturing technologies for chipsets, Bryant said. But that process takes a while, and chip set supplies should still be fairly tight during most of 2006, he said. By 2007, the supply-demand balance could tip back as Intel's facilities reach full production and

Advanced Micro Devices also reaches full production at a new facility in Dresden, Germany. This could affect chip prices in 2007, Bryant suggested.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/05/12/01/HNintelconstraints_1.html

- 35. *November 30, Security Focus* — Microsoft Windows graphics rendering engine WMF/EMF format code execution vulnerability.** Microsoft Windows WMF/EMF graphics rendering engine is affected by a remote code execution vulnerability. The problem presents itself when a user views a malicious WMF or EMF formatted file causing the affected engine to attempt to parse it. Exploitation of this issue can trigger an integer overflow that may facilitate heap memory corruption and arbitrary code execution. Any code execution that occurs will be with SYSTEM privileges due to the nature of the affected engine. Successful exploitation can facilitate a remote compromise or local privilege escalation.

Solution: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/15352/solution>

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/15352/references>

- 36. *November 30, Messaging Pipeline* — Instant Messaging threats skyrocket in November.** Akonix Systems, the San Diego, CA, provider of instant messaging (IM) security systems, said that its Security Center team tracked 62 IM-based attacks in November, a 226-percent increase over last month. The most significant new finding was that viruses no longer discriminate against specific IM systems, and can have a far costlier impact in terms of potential damage. Akonix reported that 36 percent of the IM attacks hit more than one public network and 13 percent of the attacks had the capability to spread through all four major IM networks. The Akonix Security Center noted that 58 of the worms detected were variants of previous worms, while four new worms were introduced during November. "November marked the highest number of IM threats that we have ever seen to date, proving that hackers see this real-time communications medium as a wide-open security hole in corporate networks," said Don Montgomery, vice president of marketing at Akonix Systems, in a prepared statement.

Source: <http://www.messagingpipeline.com/news/174402978;jsessionid=XKU0HNGVXMREEQSNDDBCKKH0CJUMKJVN>

- 37. *November 30, TechWeb* — Blackberry workarounds readied to sidestep patent problems.** Research In Motion Ltd. said Wednesday, November 30, it is preparing workarounds to keep Blackberry services in the U.S. up and running, in the event a court issues an injunction against the company as a result of ongoing patent litigation. A new chapter emerged in its dispute with NTP Inc., earlier Wednesday when a federal judge invalidated a \$450 million settlement between RIM, maker of the Blackberry email device, and the Arlington, VA, patent holding company. The ruling was a victory for NTP, which had argued that the settlement was never finalized. As a result, U.S. District Judge James R. Spencer could next consider whether to re-issue an injunction preventing RIM, based in Canada, from offering Blackberry service in the U.S. In a statement, RIM said it was prepared to argue against the injunction, but also said it was ready to make changes to its technology to avoid the alleged patent infringement. "As a contingency, RIM has also been preparing software workaround designs, which it intends to implement if necessary to maintain the operation of Blackberry services in the United States," the company said.

Source: <http://www.techweb.com/wire/ebiz/174403076;jsessionid=0GCQWZ R4LYF22QSNDDBGCKKH0CJUMKJVN>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT has received reports of a phishing email scam that attempts to convince the user that it is from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) by using a spoofed "From" address of "tax-refunds@irs.gov".

Upon clicking on the link provided in the email, the user is taken to a fraudulent site that looks like a legitimate U.S. government site. The user is then asked to provide personal information, such as their social security, credit card and bank pin numbers.

Users are encouraged to take the following measures to protect themselves from this type of phishing attack:

Do not follow unsolicited web links received in email messages.

Contact your financial institution immediately if you believe your account/and or financial information has been compromised.

For additional information on ways to avoid phishing email attacks, US-CERT recommends that all users review the following:

Avoiding Social Engineering and Phishing Attacks at URL:

<http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/tips/ST04-014.html>

Spoofed/Forged Email at URL: http://www.cert.org/tech_tips/email_spoofing.html

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 80 (www), 445 (microsoft-ds), 27015 (halflife), 25 (smtp), 53 (domain), 32789 (---), 135 (epmap), 139 (netbios-ssn)
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Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

38. November 30, Associated Press — **Library of Congress gets all clear.** The main building of the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, was evacuated Wednesday morning, November

30, because of a suspicious odor that turned out to come from a rust-removing solvent in a pump. Capitol Police public relations officer Sgt. Kimberly O'Brien said two police officers working in the Jefferson Building became faint and were taken to a local hospital.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/politics/132_93300.htm

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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